

Fidelity Building, Baltimore, Md.,

January 28th, 1905.

The Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland met at 11:15 this morning, in the Governor's Office in the Fidelity Building at which meeting were present: The Governor, Treasurer and Comptroller.

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, it was

Resolved, That Edward Duffy and Thomas A. Whelan be, and they are hereby appointed, irrevocably, as the Attorneys of this Board, with power of substitution, to consent to and sign, in its behalf the amendment of the sixth Article of the Articles of Association of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Baltimore, Maryland, said amendment reading as follows:

"This Association shall continue until close of business on June the 12th, 1925 unless sooner placed in voluntary liquidation by the act of its shareholders owning at least two thirds of its stock, or otherwise dissolved by authority of law."

On motion of the Comptroller, seconded by the Treasurer, it was

Resolved, That the bill of Mr. Louis P. Dieterick for \$200 in payment of his charge for painting life size bust portrait of ex-Governor Thomas C. Pratt, be paid.

The following letter from Mr. John P. Green, Vice President Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad Company was read:

Philadelphia, January 12th, 1905.

Hon. Edwin Warfield,  
Governor of Maryland,  
Annapolis, Md.

My dear Sir:

I beg to call your attention to a matter which had already been the subject of correspondence between our Company and the Executive officers of the State of Maryland, namely, the sale by the State to use of an outstanding interest in the Philadelphia, and Baltimore Central Railroad Company. No certificate of stock was ever issued to the State for the amount contributed, which was \$35,000, and it has been a dead asset ever since, as the road has never paid any dividends, and in some years has been unable to earn its fixed

charges. This largely due to the fact that the trolley lines built in late years between West Chester and Media and Philadelphia have practically deprived it of the surplus earnings which would have made its stock of some value. As I understand it the Board of Public Works of Maryland has power to sell the State's interest in all works of internal improvement, either as a stockholder or creditor, without further legislation, although I believe it is required to advertise for sealed proposals before any sale can be made. As this is the only outstanding interest in the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company, we would be willing to pay the State a fair price for the same, in order to have all of the interest in that property concentrated in our hands and would be glad to take up the question with officers as you may suggest, for the purpose of seeing whether a price could be agreed upon that would be satisfactory to the State and to our Company.

Very truly yours,

John P. Green, Vice President.

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, the communication was ordered referred to the Attorney General for his opinion as to the right of the Board of Public Works to sell its interest in the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company; and further, it was decided that before advertisement for the sale of this property is made this Board shall ascertain what price the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad is willing to pay for the same.

The following communication from a special committee of the Leaf Tobacco Association of Baltimore City was submitted to the Board;

Baltimore, Md., January 3rd, 1905.

The Honorable Board of Public Works,

Gentlemen:- As we have been informed by the State Inspector that the proceeds of insurance policies and also the receipts from the sale of the sites of State Tobacco Warehouses Nos. 1 and 2, will remain in tact and subject to your appropriation according to a recent Act of the Legislature, we desire to urge upon you that you give immediate and decisive attention to the following urgent necessities the absence of which has entailed large expense and inconvenience to our trade.

Having recently visited the warehouses, you are well aware of the antiquated and inefficient facilities at hand. There also seems to be no doubt that we shall lose the use of section 3A, which will reduce the capacity of the warehouse system by thus much. You are doubtless aware of the diversion of large quantities of tobacco to private inspection warehouses owing to these insufficient accommodations and we have little fear that you are heartily in favor of according our planters every advantage they have enjoyed previous to the recent great fire and that you are willing to assure us an ample Inspection System.

As you know we are now "between seasons" and the requirements of the warehouses at the minimum yet forewarned is forearmed and with but four months intervening between now and the time when the present warehouses, including the one which we are soon to lose are over-run with hogsheads of tobacco in course of receiving, inspecting, storing and shipping. It is then with these conditions and prospects confronting us that we so urgently call upon you to restore to the trade adequate equipments and that steps be taken and at once. We believe you have been fully empowered by Legislative Enactment to sell, buy, repair or rebuild and we presume to request that you at once dismantle and raise section No. 4 and 3B to the full five stories to conform to the balance of the houses and equip the others as well as these with modern elevators, screw-lines and other facilities which may be recommended by competent architectural authority.

We fear we have not sufficiently presented to you these immediate necessities and ask that you appoint some early date for conference that we may present these conditions more clearly before you looking to immediate action.

This matter we cannot put before you too forcibly as the necessities are such that your honorable body will readily see. And while we ask what we see absolutely necessary we desire also to put before you the advisability of securing for the use of the trade a sight upon the water front with modern ware house facility. During the present year the additional charges upon the shippers has frequently amounted to 12 1/2 cents per hogshead owing to the fact of the inability of the transfer agents to secure wharfage nearly over which to load the scows in which the tobacco was transferred

to the foreign steamers. The present holdings of the State of wharf property on Light Street can readily be shown to be insufficient to accommodate the arriving light draft vessels and shipping scows which crowd upon us in the months of our busy season.

The large seasoned timbers forming the supports and floors of our warehouses, the thousands of tobacco casks and dry inflammable tobacco are easy prey to flames and our recent great fire should caution us against centralizing such large quantities of inflammable goods, when we have such a ready means of preventing the same.

Did we ask of your honorable body of the State any assistance in this matter we should likely go with more caution but unless our valuable properties on Long Dock go for naught the State Tobacco Warehouse funds, which in no wise belong to the State will not only give us the benefits of what we have asked but show a magnificent return and make substantial payments upon the amount charged to the tobacco fund, if not entirely wiping out the same and leaving a goodly sum as bonus.

We must earnestly ask your consideration of these requests and also again beg that you will notify the Secretary of the Leaf Tobacco Association of the time and date when we may have the conference we request.

Very respectfully yours,

H. Ruhstrat, Pres. of the Leaf  
Tobacco Asso. of Balto. City.

M. Tilghman Howard, Secretary,  
306 Hanover Street.

Henry Lants	:	
F. C. Ruhstrat, Atty.	:	
John Gornley	:	Special Committee of
Henry B. Vocke	:	the
Charles Edborn	:	Leaf Tobacco Association.
James J. Greenwell	:	

The following report from the Chief Tobacco Inspector and his deputies was read:

Baltimore, January 2nd, 1905.

The Honorable Board of Public Works,

Gentlemen:- We, the Chief and Deputy Inspectors of the State

Tobacco Warehouses after an experience in the warehouses from the 7th, day of March 1904 to the present time earnestly recommend to your favorable consideration the following suggestions, viz:

The building of a warehouse on the water front with modern equipments for inspecting and capacity for storing 15,000 hhds. tobacco.

To remodel and improve Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Tobacco Warehouses raising them to five stories high and include modern equipments for inspecting and handling tobacco.

We feel assured that with the amount realized from the fire insurance company for Nos. 1 and 2 Tobacco Warehouses and with the proceeds from the sales of the property upon which Nos. 1 and 2 Tobacco Warehouses stood there will be ample means to provide for the above suggestions and liquidate the present indebtedness to the State.

Respectfully submitted,

Aquila F. Robinson, Chief Inspector

Frank O. Smith, Dept. "

John A. B. Shermantine, Dept. "

P. R. Wills,

(Signed)

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, it was Resolved, That this Board meet on Friday, February 3rd, at 11 a. m., in the Fidelity Building, Baltimore, when a hearing will be accorded the representatives of the Leaf Tobacco Association and the Chief Tobacco Inspector and his Deputies upon all questions involved in the above communications. And,

Resolved further, That the Burnt District Commission of Baltimore City, be requested to meet the Board of Public Works of Maryland on the same day and at the same place at noon, to discuss with Board, the purchase of the property which they desire to acquire from the State.

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, the Governor was authorized to employ a real estate expert at a compensation not to exceed \$100 to ascertain and fix the value of the State's dock and wharf property which the Burnt District Commission of Baltimore City is desirous of purchasing.

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, the

Board at 11:45 a. m., adjourned.

*Oswald Tilghman*  
Secretary.

